(c) the steps taken to expedite the clearance of those projects; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) There is no tourism development project of Orissa pending for environmental clearance as such. However, a proposal for diversion of 901.25 ha. of forest land for development of a special Tourism Area on the Sea Beach between Puri and Konark in Puri District of Orissa was received from the State Government. After site inspection and detailed examination of the proposal, the State Government has been requested to prepare a revised proposal after carefully assessing the likely effects on the environment including on flora and fauna in the area. The revised proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is awaited from the State Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Commercialisation of Forest Land

2853. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest land are being commercialised in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the States where such incidents are increasing;

(c) the steps taken to stop such practice since the commercialisation will create growing imbalance in the environment; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, use of forest land for non forestry purposes including commercial purposes is not permitted without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government under the Act. After receipt of formal proposal from the concerned State Government in this regard, it is examined carefully and after taking into consideration the likely benefits from the project vis-a-vis likely adverse impact of such diversion on environment, particularly on flora and fauna, a judicious decision is taken in respect of the proposal. While according approval for diversion of forest land, raising of compensatory afforestation is stipulated along with other safeguards to offset the likely adverse impact of such diversion on environment.

Clearance of Dholpur Power Project, Rajasthan

2854. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally cleared the Dholpur Power Project for Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in giving clearance and what are the conditions attached to the clearance of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The Dholpur Power Project has been cleared from the environmental angle. The time taken in giving the clearance could be attributed to the improper selection of technology and infrastructure. The original proposal of the Project of 750 MW was not found to be environmentally compatible and its proximity to areas of ecological sensitivity and architectural importance. subsequently the Project Authorities opted for a clean technology which had now become commercially available, and also scaled down the size of the proposal to 360 MW. The clearance has been given subject to condition, which include the following:

— The proposed plant should be based on clean technology, which has been